

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this Amendment, claims 2-13, 15, and 17-25 were pending in the application.

Claim 2 is amended to include the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 7 and intervening claim 6, with claims 6 and 7 being cancelled. Claims 8, 9, and 10 are amended to correct dependencies.

Independent claim 17 is amended to include system limitations similar to the method limitations found in amended claim 2.

Claims 23-25 are cancelled.

After entry of the Amendment, claims 2-5, 8-13, 15, and 17-22 remain for consideration by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, claims 7-9 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim but were found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, claim 2 is amended to include the limitations of claims 6 and 7 so as to present claim 7 in independent form. As a result, claim 2 and claims 3-5 and 8-13, which depend from claim 2, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 17 is directed is likewise amended to include limitations similar to the method of claim 2 but in system/apparatus format. As a result, claim 17 and claims 18-22, which depend from claim 17, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

In the Office Action, all the pending claims except for claims 7-9 were rejected as being anticipated or as being obvious. Claims 23-25 are cancelled, and the remaining independent claims 2 and 17 were amended to include limitations similar to those found dependent claim 7 which was found to contain subject matter allowable over the cited references. As a result, Applicants believe all the remaining claims should be allowable over the cited references.

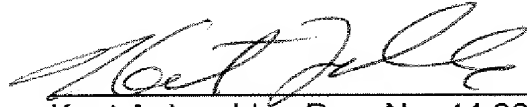
Conclusion

In view of all of the above, it is requested that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

No fee is believed to be required by this response. However, should any fee be required please charge Deposit Account 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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